

## Projects



### Ink pencil case

#### Preface

To learn how to use a sewing machine at all, I chose a very simple project. A friend has such a nice pencil case or pencil case for her brushes, which you can take with you when you travel. That's what I wanted, just for my pens, graphite pens and notebooks. Of course I could have ordered a pencil case on the net, but in the last few weeks my opinion has changed a bit.

#### Research

It's kind of off. I looked at some more cases on the Internet, but the design of them all is very similar. I didn't want to have a pattern or other elements on it, but only a case in which I can store everything, so that it doesn't break, and it should look minimalistic.

#### Materials

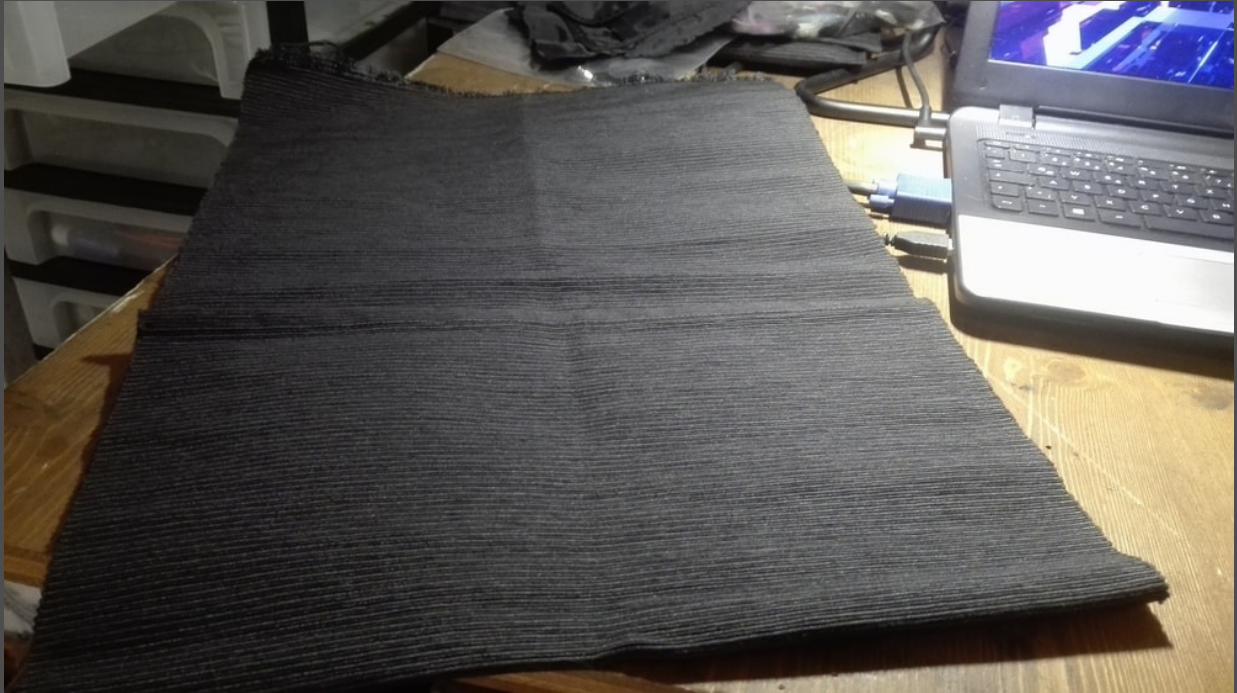


It does not matter which sewing machine is used. However, we should choose one that is suitable for beginners or does not have hundreds of functions. People who buy a machine usually want the best deal with the most features, etc. You can do that. But this is unnecessary, because a sewing machine only needs to be good at one thing. Sewing. For the first projects we should not buy

anything and borrow the technology from a friend. Maybe we notice that the tailoring doesn't suit us and then we have something we bought in the cellar that we never touch again or throw in the trash at some point. There need not be a waste of money and natural resources. In summary, we need a good sewing machine, pins, scissors and the table runner.

## Realisation

First we RTFM completely, then we read it a second time if we have skipped something. We then check whether everything on our machine is set to standard and whether there is enough material, i.e. yarn on the bobbins. I'm really picky and so should you, because there's nothing worse than having to put in new thread when sewing. This unnecessarily undermines the workflow.



We shorten our table runner to a length of 6100 mm ( $610\text{mm} / 25.4 = 24.015748031''$ ). This gives us a suitable length for pens, ink pens and notebooks. For shortening we use scissors and cut as straight as possible along an edge. Whether you mark this beforehand with tailor's chalk or use a wooden ruler is up to you.



In the next step we will fold and sew over the fuzzy edge. This will give us a clean and straight edge later on, which can no longer be distinguished from an industrially produced seam. Before we can start sewing, we have to lift the presser foot to be able to underlay our fabric. We have to make sure that our yarn cannot knot anywhere or get tangled in individual components. Again, the more tidy you work, the less you have to deal with rework or errors or failures.





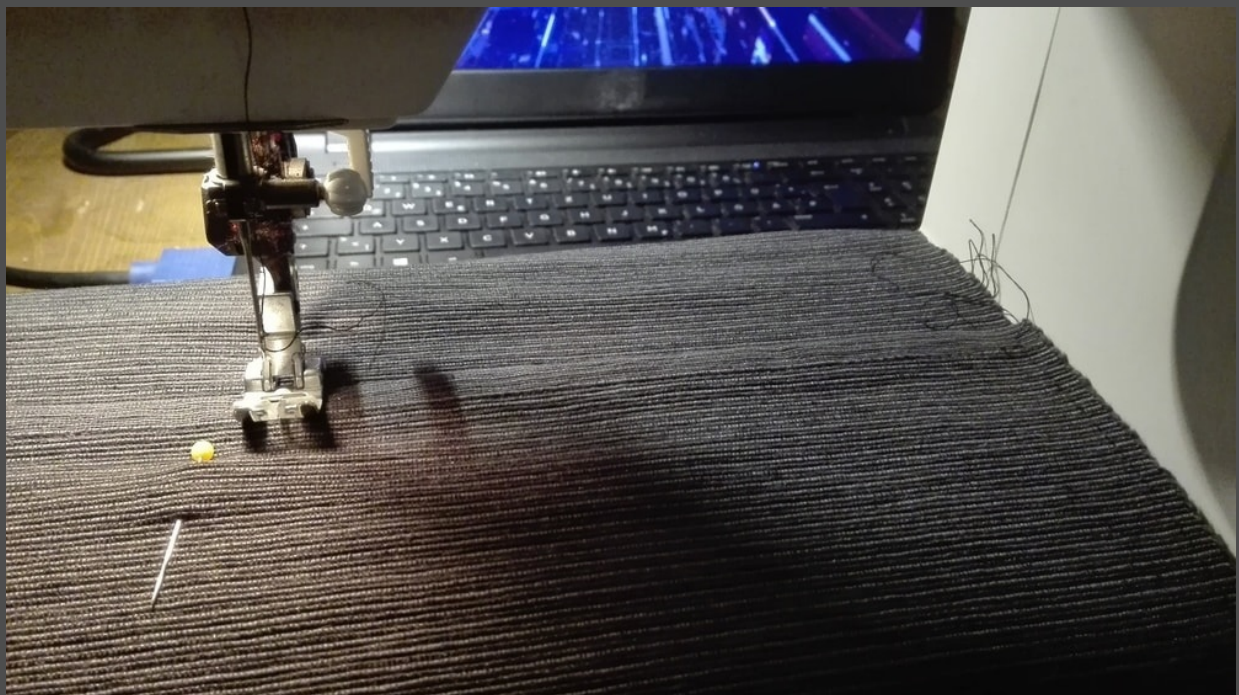
We adjust our sewing machine to the right side so that we can sew at the edge. This helps us to have a clean and straight seam, as we only have to sew along the edge with the sewing foot. We sew once forwards/upwards and then press the reverse switch. This means that we can trace the same path back again and do not have to turn the material we work with. At this point we really have to work properly, because if both seams do not lie exactly over each other, it will inevitably look bad and messy. This also requires a lot of practice with the machine and confidence in one's own abilities.







To make our work even easier, we attach both edges with safety pins that prevent the fabrics from slipping. These cannot be overstepped and must always be pulled out shortly before. We have to practice again here. It should be avoided to stop the actual sewing process and it is best to carry out both operations at the same time. Now that we have finished the first page, we have to decide how we want to proceed. There are no precise instructions here and I prefer to start on the right and then work my way to the left, but everyone has to find their own style here. We can put on the compartments as we would like to have it. It is helpful to insert a pen or feather in between before sewing. This makes it easier to estimate the distance between the individual seams.





## Conclusion

There will always be some flaws in a first work. That's quite normal. Sewing is really a matter of practice and you have to try a lot to find your personal working style. Of course you also have to learn the craft, the traditions and the theory. Nevertheless, his own handwriting is the hallmark of his work. You should also always try out ideas and expect that they may not look as good as you imagined. But that shouldn't keep you from being curious, creative and open to the tailoring trade. The industry makes the mass products, we care about individually and with love manufactured pieces, which are to address humans on a personal level.